

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 094464
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/S- O SSTEINER

APPROVED BY: S/S- O SSTEINER

-----271216Z 010864 /44

O 271204Z APR 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 094464

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM CAPE TOWN DTD 27 APR 1977

DTG O 270855Z APR 7 QTE

S E C R E T CAPE TOWN 0635

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND ASST SECY SCHAUFELLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SF

SUBJ: MEETING WITH PM VORSTER

REF: (A) STATE 092271; (B) STATE 094101

1. I HAVE JUST RECEIVED REFTEL (B) WHICH MAKES NO
REFERENCE TO REFTEL (A) BUT I ASSUME COMPLETELY SUPERCEDES
IT.

2. WHILE I WILL OF COURSE PROCEED WITH INSTRUCTIONS

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CONTAINED REFTEL (B), I WOUNDER WHETHER THE TIMING OF
INFORMING VORSTER (TODAY) AND MAKING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT
(NEXT FRIDAY) HAS BEEN CONSIDERED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF
ITS IMPACT ON THE FIVE-POWER TALKS WITH SAG ON NAMIBIA
WHICH OPEN AT 11:00 A.M. LOCAL TIME TODAY.
IN TELLING VORSTER TODAY THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS
PREPARED TO MEET WITH HIM IN MID-MAY WE RISK A

LESSENING OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICANS WILL TAKE THE URGINGS OF THE CONTACT GROUP (CG). THEY WILL BE INCLINED TO THINK THAT THEY CAN AFFORD TO WAIT TO TALK TO THE VICE PRESIDENT. I BELIEVE WE WANT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO UNDERMINE THE WORK OF THE CG BY GIVING THE SAG A SIGNAL WHICH THEY ARE LIKELY TO MISINTERPRET. IT WOULD BE PREFEREABLE TO HAVE THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE CG PRESENTATION SINK IN FIRST AND THEN HAVE THE MEETING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT TO UNDERSCORE OUR SERIOUSNESS. ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE WHICH YOU ARE IN BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE IS HOW OUR EUROPEAN AND CANADIAN FRIENDS ON THE CG WILL REGARD THE TIMING.

3. WITH THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATION IN MIND, I WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL FRIDAY AFTERNOON, WHEN THE CG TALKS ARE EXPECTED TO BE OVER, TO INFORM THE PM THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS PREPARED TO MEET HIM AND, ASSUMING HE ACCEPTS, TO HOLD OFF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT UNTIL MONDAY.

4. AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SHARES THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOVE ON THE IMPLICATIONS FOR HIS MISSION AND JOINS ME IN THE SUGGESTION ON CHANGE OF DATE.

5. MY APPOINTMENT WITH FONMIN BOTHA THIS AFTERNOON IS FLEXIBLE SO I SHALL HOLD UP FIXING THE HOUR UNTIL I HEAR FROM YOU. BOWDLER UNQTE VANCE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-A
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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